Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/AVP:GGRIFFITHS:RAB?OWN:LO APPROVED BY EB/AN:RABROWN EB/OA/AVP:AJWHITE EA/ANP:FBENNETT CAB:JHORNEMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH PAN AM FARE ...

REF: (A) CANBERRA 5673, (B) CANBERRA 5866

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY SENT LETTER DATED JULY 19 TO DEPARTMENT RE PROPOSED PAN AM BUDGET FARES FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS: QUOTE DEAR MR. BROWN: REFERENCE IS MADE TO OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION OF 19 JULY 1978, REGARDING A FURTHER TARIFF FILING FROM PAN AM ON 5 JULY 1978, FOR APPROVAL TO APPLY BUDGET FARES BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES. AS DISCUSSED, THE AUSTRALN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT HAS REJECTED THE FILING AND PAN AM WAS ADVISED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCORDINGLY ON 19 JULY 1978. SINCERELY, G. BAILEY. UNQUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT SOMEWHAT CONFUSED BY GOA LETTER SINCE IT IS LACKING IN BOTH FORM AND SUBSTANCE. ACCORDINGLY, DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE EMBASSY TO DELIVER AN AIDE-MEMOIRE TO GOA ON THIS SUBJECT. TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRE FOLLOWS: QUOTE

THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY DELIVERED A LETTER DATED JULY 19
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REGARDING THE PROPOSED PAN AM
BUDGET FARES FOR AIR TRAVEL BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE
UNITED STATES. THE LETTER STATED THAT THE PAN AM FILING

HAD BEEN REJECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT.

SECTION IV OF THE ANNEX TO THE US-AUSTRALIA AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT OF DECEMBER 3, 1946, ESTABLISHES THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED REGARDING THE DETERMINATION OF RATES BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

PARAGRAPH F OF SECTION IV SETS DOWN THE PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION AFTER NEW FARES ARE PROPOSED. THE LETTER OF JULY 19 MAKES NO REFERENCE TO THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT, NOR DOES IT STATE THAT IT IS INTENDED TO BE A NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT ALTHOUGH A PROPERLY ISSUED NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION SHOULD PRECEDE ANY REJECTION OF A PROPOSED FARE.

BEYOND THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION, WE NOTE THAT THE JULY 19
LETTER STATES THAT THE FARES ARE REJECTED, BUT PROVIDES
NO ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION FOR REJECTION. WE WOULD HOPE
THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD DELINEATE ITS
ECONOMIC REASONING TO THE US GOVERNMENT. WE ARE MINDFUL
OF RECENT STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT WHICH INDICATE SUPPORT FOR LOWER FARES BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES. THE ACTION TAKEN IN THE JULY 19 LETTER APPEARS TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH THESE STATEMENTS. SINCE US POLICY IS TO EXPEDITIOUSLY BRING ABOUT LOWER FARES, THE USG HOPES THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA WILL RECONSIDER ITS ACTION IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE. UNQUOTE.

- 3. ACTION REQUESTED: IF GOA HAS NOT ALREADY DOCUMENTED REJECTION TO EMBASSY, EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DELIVER AIDEMEMOIRE TO APPROPRIATE GOA OFFICIALS AND REPORT RESPONSE SOONEST.
- 4. COMMENT: GOA HAS PROVIDED US WITH THE NEEDLE TO BURST THE LOW FARE BALLOON AUSTRALIANS SEEM TO BE FLOATING. INTRODUCTION OF PAN AM LOW BUDGET FARES ARE NOT DEPENDENT UPON OUTCOME OF UPCOMING USG-GOA TALKS. IF GOA SINCERELY IN FAVOR OF LOW FARES, WHY IS IT REJECTING THE PAN AM FARES? VANCE

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